

MAMH

Massachusetts Association for Mental Health

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October 17, 2014

Martha Coakley, Attorney General
Attn: Antitrust Division
Office of Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 18th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Settlement with Partners HealthCare/Preservation of Psychiatric/Behavioral Health Services

Dear General Coakley,

We are writing to follow up on our letter of July 18, 2014 in support of the proposed settlement you have negotiated with Partners HealthCare. In that letter, we noted that the proposed agreement is designed to support efforts to provide coordinated patient care and increased mental health services in our communities. We applauded this effort.


We understand now that there is a new provision in the proposed settlement between your office and Partners HealthCare which states that Partners will preserve psychiatric/behavioral health services in the communities north of Boston at no less than their current level.

We are not surprised that Partners has agreed to this provision because, in our experience it has done more to advance community based integrated access to primary and behavioral health care than virtually any other health care system in the Commonwealth.

We have been extremely pleased to see the plans that Partners has laid out to establish a Center of Excellence for Psychiatry and Mental Health within Union Hospital.

These plans will result in a real and measureable benefit to patients and their families. We strongly urge the judge to consider these benefits to the community and hope that she will approve the entire settlement.

Thank you for your consideration.


Bernard J. Carey
Executive Director


Timothy O'Leary
Deputy Director